

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER 92-112

AMENDED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, PITTSBURG POWER PLANT

RENEWAL OF TOXIC PITS CLEANUP ACT EXEMPTIONS FOR:

CLASS I SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS

BOILER CHEMICAL CLEANING SOLUTION POND, BOILER CHEMICAL CLEANING RINSE POND,

AIR PREHEATER WASH POND, AND DEMINERALIZER NEUTRALIZATION POND

PITTSBURG, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, hereinafter called the Board, finds that:

**Facility and Site Description**

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Pittsburg Power Plant (hereinafter called the discharger), operates an electric power generating facility which contains Class I and II surface impoundments. The 280 acre facility is located in Pittsburg, adjacent to Suisun Bay. (See Figure 1 Location Map)
2. The following Class I surface impoundments at this facility are subject to TPCA requirements:
  - Boiler Chemical Cleaning Solution Pond
  - Boiler Chemical Cleaning Rinse Pond
  - Air Preheater Wash Pond
  - Demineralizer Neutralization Pond

The ponds are used for the storage and treatment of hazardous waste solutions. (See Figure 2 Site Map)

**Related Orders**

3. On April 18, 1990, the Board adopted NPDES permit No. CA0004880, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 90-053, which regulates several discharges to Suisun Bay, including the discharge of liquid supernate from the Class I impoundments (refer to finding 2).
4. On September 16, 1987, the Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 87-122. The Order established Waste Discharge Requirements for the Class I and II surface impoundments, interim Water Quality Protection Standards, a Self Monitoring Program, and exemptions to Sections 25208.4(a) and 25208.4(c) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act which prohibits disposal, and storage of hazardous waste and restricted hazardous waste in surface impoundments. The Order also required the discharger to perform the following:
  - a. A Hydrological Investigation of tidal effects and seasonal variations on groundwater gradients.
  - b. Submit design and specifications, construction plan quality assurance/quality control program for the liners and leachate collection system for the Class I and Class II surface impoundments.
  - c. Submit a detailed construction schedule for the Class I surface impoundments.
  - d. Submit a groundwater monitoring program plan and implement groundwater monitoring.

- e. Submit additional information for exemption request from vadose zone monitoring.
  - f. Establish operating and contingency plans for each retro-fitted surface impoundments.
  - g. Submit evidence that the Class II surface impoundments do not contain hazardous wastes, and comply with Chapter 15 siting and construction standards.
  - h. Renewal of the granted exemptions to Section 25208.4(a) for the all four Class I impoundments; and to Section 25208.4(c) for all Class I impoundments except the Demineralizer Neutralization Pond every five years.
  - i. Submit a renewal of exemptions fee by February 19, 1991.
5. A renewal of exemptions fee was not required. The discharger requested a renewal of exemptions from Sections 25208.4(a) and 25208.4(c) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act in letters to the Regional Board dated February 15, 1991 and July 30, 1992.

#### Exemption Compliance Findings

- 6. Sections 25208.4(a) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act prohibits the discharge of liquid hazardous waste or hazardous waste containing free liquids into a surface impoundment, if the surface impoundment, or the land immediately beneath it, contains hazardous wastes and is located within one-half mile upgradient from a potential drinking water source. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted by the Regional Board pursuant to Sections 25208.4(b). Any exemption shall not be effective for more than five years.
- 7. Section 25208.4(c) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act prohibits the discharge of any restricted hazardous waste into a surface impoundment, unless the person is granted an exemption pursuant to Section 25208.13 or 25208.16. Any exemption shall not be effective for more than five years.
- 8. Order No. 87-122 contains a finding which grants the discharger an exemption from Sections 25208.4(a) (for all Class I ponds), and 25208.4(c) (for all Class I ponds except the Demineralizer Neutralization Pond) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act.
- 9. Based on a review of the existing data and the discharger's operational procedures, in accordance with Sections 25208.4(b)(2) and 25208.16 of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act, which establish requirements the discharger must meet to be granted the exemptions the Regional Board finds:
  - a. No hazardous waste constituents have migrated from the surface impoundments into the vadose zone, or waters of the state in concentrations which pollute the vadose zone, or pollute, or threaten to pollute, the waters of the state.
  - b. Continuing the operation of the surface impoundments does not pose a significant potential of hazardous waste constituents migrating from the surface impoundments into the vadose zone or waters of the state.
  - c. No extremely hazardous wastes have been or are being discharged into the surface impoundments.
  - d. The surface impoundments are used for temporary storage and noncontinuous batch treatment of restricted hazardous waste.
  - e. The discharger has triple lined all Class I ponds with 80 mil High Density Polyethylene, installed a Geotextile/Geonet material between the liners to serve as a

leachate collection system, and has installed a sump/pipe system for leachate collection and removal.

- f. All hazardous wastes are removed after each batch treatment within 30 days of discharge, if a discharge into the surface impoundment contains restricted hazardous waste. The surface impoundments are visually inspected prior to each use and tested for integrity at least annually.
- g. The impoundments are in compliance with the construction criteria and groundwater monitoring requirements of Section 25208.5, and a Hydrogeological Assessment Report has been filed with this Board as required by the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act, Section 25208.8.

#### **California Environmental Quality Act**

- 10. This amendment is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15308 of the Resource Agency Guidelines.

#### **Notice and Meeting**

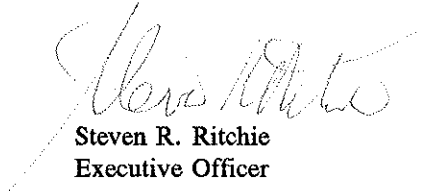
- 11. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this amendment of waste discharge requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and any other persons that currently or in the future own this land or operate this facility, shall meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder and shall also comply with the following:

Order 87-122 is hereby amended to include the following:

- 48. The existing four Class I surface impoundments listed in finding 2, are granted an exemption of no more than 5 years from the date of this Amendment to Order 87-122 for discharging liquid hazardous waste pursuant to Section 25208.4(a) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act.
- 49. The existing Class I surface impoundments listed in finding 2, except the Demineralized Neutralization Pond, are granted an exemption of no more than five years from the date of this Amendment to Order 87-122 for discharging restricted hazardous waste pursuant to Section 25208.4(c) of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region on September 16, 1992.

  
Steven R. Ritchie  
Executive Officer

#### **Attachments:**

Figure 1: Site Map

Figure 2: Location Map

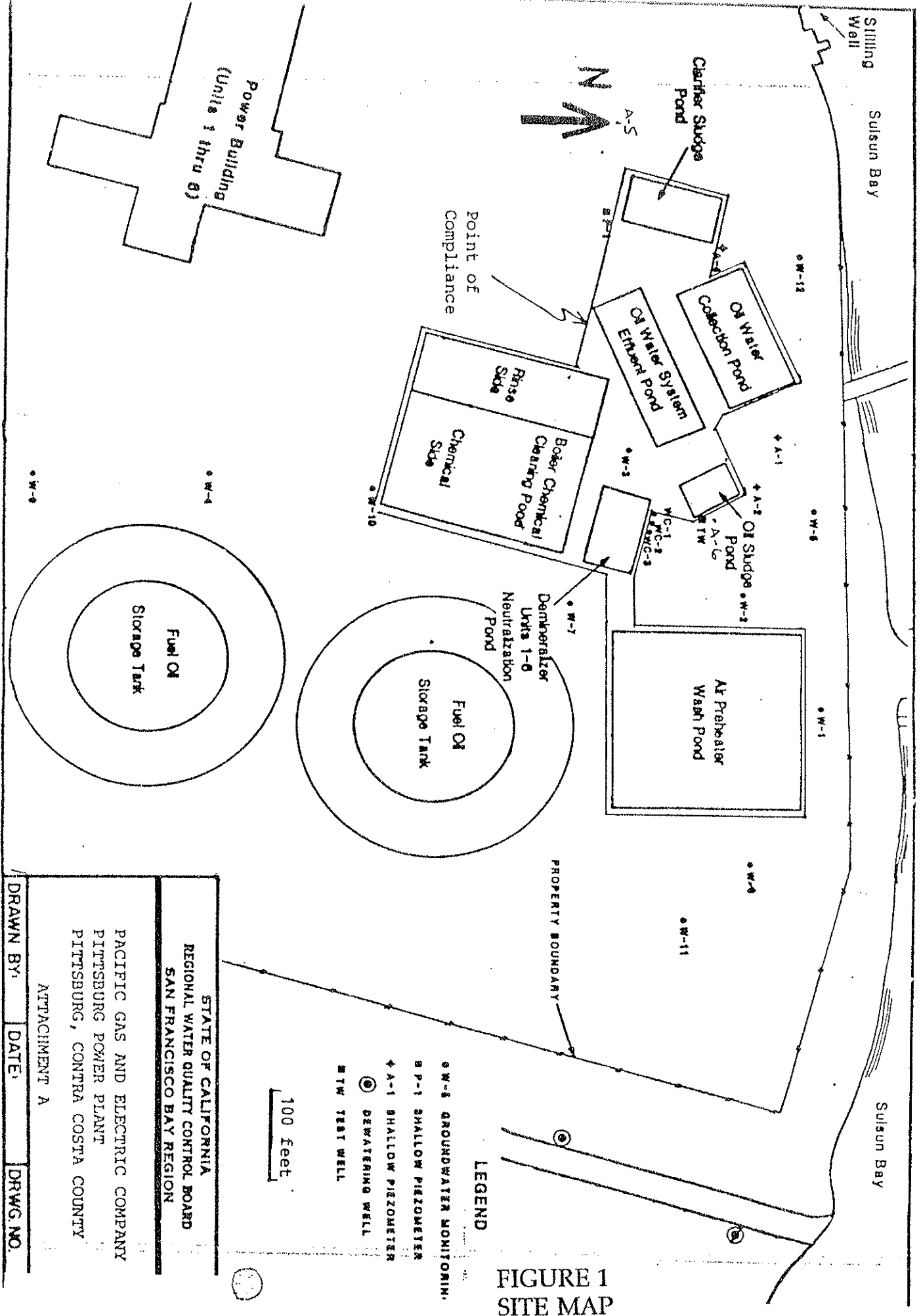


FIGURE 1  
SITE MAP

STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD		
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION		
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY		
PITTSBURG POWER PLANT		
PITTSBURG, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY		
ATTACHMENT A		
DRAWN BY:	DATE:	DRWG. NO.

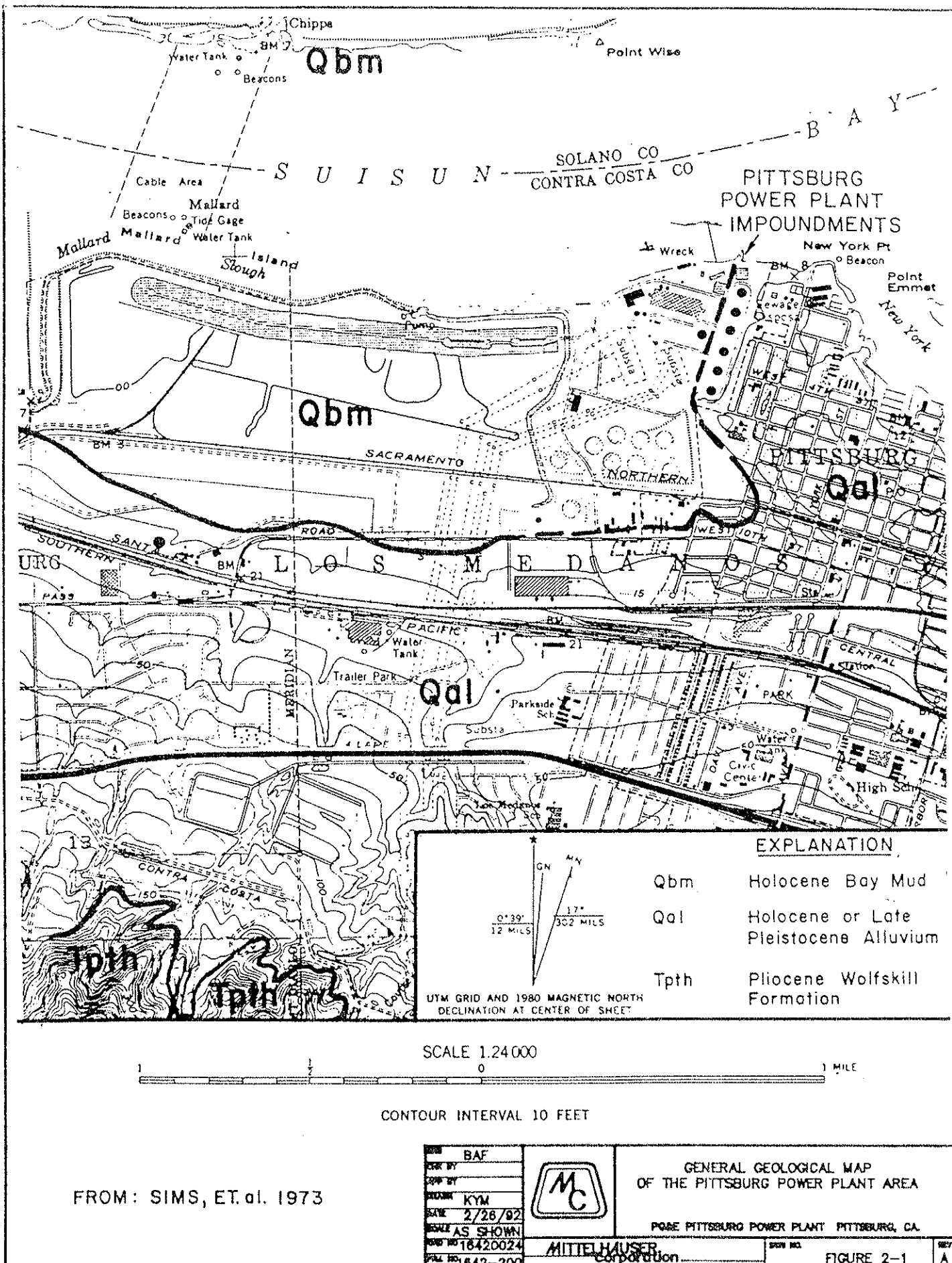


FIGURE 2  
LOCATION MAP